

Sweden

Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (TLV)

Recent and planned developments in pharmaceutical policies 2016

Special topic: Out-of-pocket payments

DEVELOPMENTS

CHANGES IN PRICING

Retail margin

The revised retail margin for pharmaceuticals included in the reimbursement scheme came into effect on April 1st, 2016.

The maximum dispensing fee for pharmaceuticals has been increased from 167 to 1 046.25 SEK (€~17 to 100). In practice, pharmacies receive 2 percent of the purchasing price between 300 and 50 000 SEK (€~30 to 5 000). The increase was financed by lowering the dispensing fee for all products by 0.75 SEK (€~0.07). As before, pharmacies receive an extra 11.50 SEK (€~11) when dispensing an interchangeable (e.g. generic) product.

Price reviews

When the biosimilar to Enbrel (etanercept); Benepali, was launched TLV conducted a price review for subcutaneous TNF- α -inhibitors. The price review resulted in price agreements and/or list price reductions for five products (four INN:s) which will generate cost savings.

CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT

Change in co-payment for children

Pharmaceuticals included in the reimbursement scheme are free from out-of-pocket payment for children under 18 years from January 2016.

Change in co-payment for contraceptives

The government has adopted a new national policy that young adults (under 21 years) will receive free contraceptives, included in the reimbursement scheme, without any out-of-pocket payment from January 2017.

OTHER CHANGES



TLV is continuously developing the system for value based pricing of pharmaceuticals. This includes adapting methods used to assess new and often expensive products.

A form of collaboration between county councils, pharmaceutical companies and TLV has further been developed to establish national recommendations and a plan for coherent introduction of new high-cost pharmaceuticals. The collaboration may result in risk sharing agreements between the county councils and the pharmaceutical companies for specific pharmaceuticals.

SPECIALLY TOPIC

OUT-OF POCKET PAYMENTS



For pharmaceuticals included in the benefit scheme, the patient and the state share the costs of the pharmaceuticals. During a 12-month period, a patient pays the full amount of the pharmaceutical up to SEK 1 100 (€~110). After paying SEK 2 200 (€~220), the patient is fully subsidized. Between SEK 1 100 and SEK 2 200, the patient is subsidized 50%, 75% or 90%, depending on the accumulated costs.

0 % co-payment

No co-payment is required for pharmaceuticals used during a hospital stay. It is included in the fee the patient pays when visiting a clinic or a hospital (max. SEK 100 (€~10) per day).

Insulin, pharmaceuticals prescribed for preventing contamination of certain communicable diseases (i.e. hepatitis C and HIV), and pharmaceuticals for persons lacking perception of their own illness, are always subsidized at 100%.

